

REMARKS

Applicants will address each of the Examiner's rejections in the order in which they appear in the office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibamoto et al. in view of Friend et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of these references is improper. The EL panel of Shibamoto is used as a light source or a backlight for the operation panel having fixed operation keys or switches. In contrast, the EL element of Friend is used as an image display element for the display device. Therefore, there would have been no motivation for one skilled in the art to combine these references, as required under the law.

Further, one of the features of the claimed invention is the display device comprising a touch input operational portion. (See e.g. Figs.3A-3C.) However, Shibamoto discloses the operation panel having fixed operation keys or switches.

Furthermore, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 2.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, and it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 19, 20, 23-27

The Examiner also rejects Claims 19, 20 and 23-27 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yabe et al. in view of Friend et al. This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

The combination of these references is also improper. The EL panel of Yabe is used as a light source or a backlight for the liquid crystal display panel. In contrast, the EL element of Friend is used as an image display element for the display device. In addition, Yabe does not disclose a reflection display but only a transmissive display. Therefore, there would have been no suggestion or motivation for one skilled in the art to combine these references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, and it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 28 and 31

The Examiner further rejects Claims 28 and 31 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lebby et al. in view of Friend et al. This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

In order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended claim 28.

In the Office Action, the Examiner contends that “it is obvious that, these three displays can be attached to each other in one location to facilitate the users if space is problem.” Applicants disagree. It is not understandable how three displays could be attached to each other in one location in Lebby, and there is no suggestion of such a design choice in Lebby. This is completely contrary to the claimed invention, wherein, three displays are attached to each other in one location. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, and it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner also has the following rejections under 35 USC §103 of the dependent claims:

- A. Claims 8-11, 21 and 22 are rejected as being unpatentable over Shibamoto et al. in view of Friend et al. and further in view of Mack II et al.
- B. Claims 3 and 16-18 are rejected as being unpatentable over Shibamoto et al. in view of Friend et al. and further in view of Lebby et al. and Mack II et al.
- C. Claims 29, 30, 32 and 33 are rejected as being unpatentable over Lebby et al. in view of Friend et al. and further in view of Mack II et al.
- D. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected as being unpatentable over Shibamoto et al. in view of Friend et al. and further in view of Katsura.

For at least the reasons discussed above for the independent claims, these dependent claims are also patentable over the cited references.

Accordingly, it is requested that these rejections now be withdrawn.

IDS

Applicants are also filing an IDS herewith. It is requested that the Examiner consider this IDS prior to issuing a further action in this application.

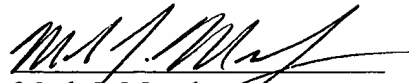
Conclusion

As the claims clearly define over the art, this application is in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the application now be allowed.

If any fee is due for this amendment, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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